



Department of Justice

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ORLANDO GUN DEALER FACING UP TO TWENTY YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON AFTER SELLING FIREARMS TO CONVICTED FELONS

Orlando, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court in Orlando, Florida, late yesterday found an Orlando area federally licensed firearms dealer, Jacquelyn Louis, 33, guilty of two counts of sale of a firearm to a convicted felon. The maximum penalty Louis faces on each count is ten years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for February 25, 2008, before the Honorable Patricia C. Fawsett, Chief United States District Judge. Louis previously had been indicted on the charges by a federal grand jury on September 19, 2007.

According to the evidence presented at trial, Louis operated as a federally licensed firearms dealer in the Pine Hills area of Orlando. On two separate occasions in October and November 2006, Louis met with multi-convicted felons and undercover agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). At each meeting, a felon approached Louis, asked to purchase a handgun and openly told Louis that they had a felony conviction and could not pass a criminal background check. Louis nonetheless assisted both felons in obtaining firearms by having the undercover agent complete the mandatory federal background paperwork. The felons then paid Louis in cash for the firearms, received sales receipts and immediately walked away with the firearms in their

hands. Under federal law, a convicted felon is prohibited from either purchasing or possessing firearms.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office and ATF. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.